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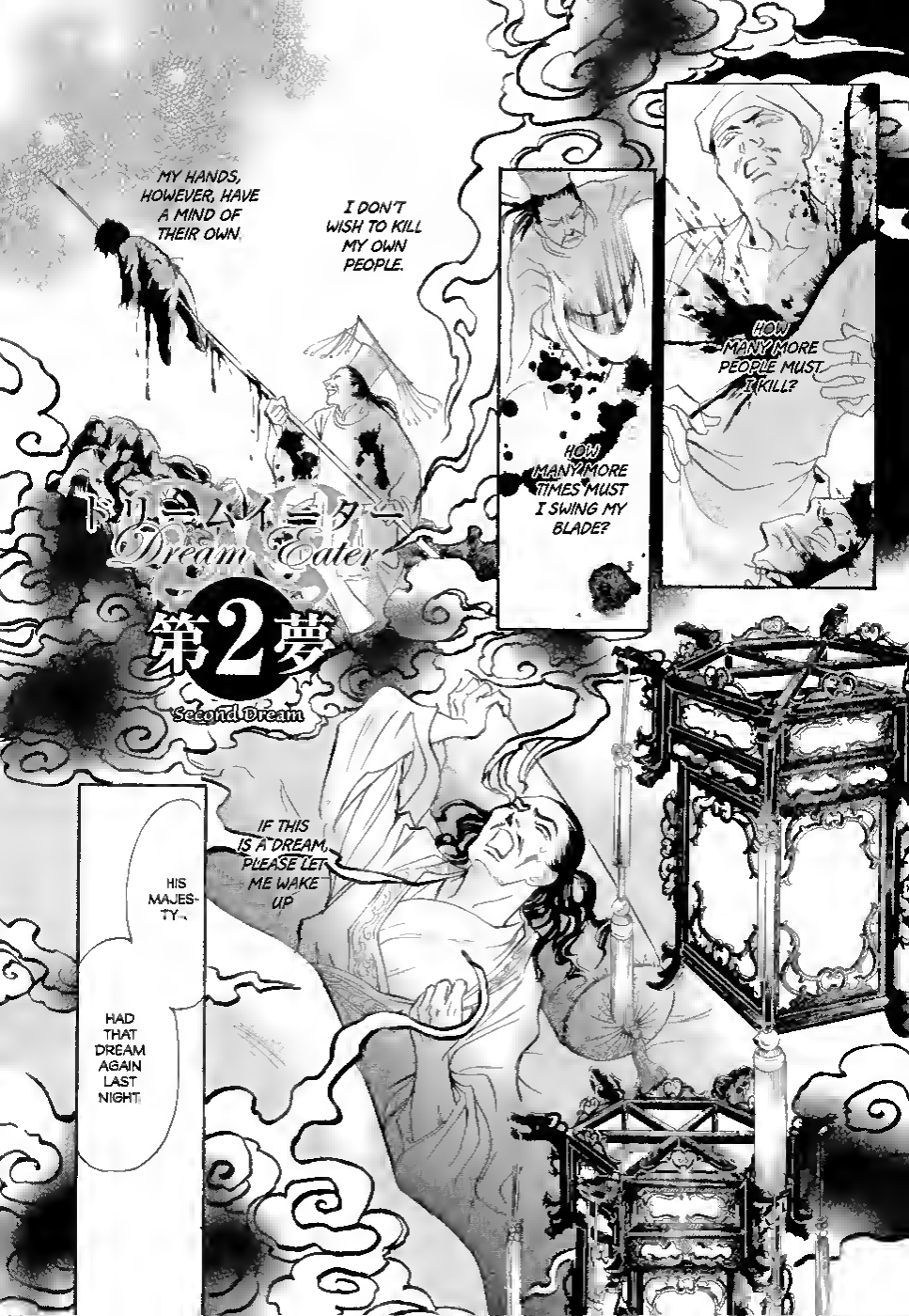
MY HANDS, HOWEVER, HAVE A MIND OF THEIR OWN.
I DON'T WISH TO KILL MY OWN PEOPLE.
HOW MANY MORE PEOPLE MUST I KILL?
HOW MANY MORE TIMES MUST I SWING MY BLADE?
ドリームイーター
Dream Eater
第2夢
Second Dream
IF THIS IS A DREAM, PLEASE LET ME WAKE UP
HIS MAJES-TY-
HAD THAT DREAM AGAIN LAST NIGHT

HALF A YEAR HAS PASSED SINCE THE NIGHTMARE STARTED
WE HAVE BROUGHT IN MONKS, HEALERS, AND EXORCISTS FROM ALL OVER THE COUNTRY,
BUT RELIEF IS NOT TO BE HAD NO, NONE WHATSO-EVER
HIS MAJESTY IS DAUNTED BY THE PROSPECT OF KILLING HIS SUBJECTS IN HIS DREAM—
SUCH THAT HE LOSES HIS NIGHTLY SLEEP OVER IT
ONE SEES HOW HOLLOW HIS CHEEKS HAVE BECOME
IT IS AFFECTING HIS ROYAL DUTIES
I WANT YOU—*ALL* OF YOU—TO FIND A WAY TO BE RID OF THIS NIGHTMARE

I'M AFRAID
NIGHT HAS FALLEN AGAIN
ONCE I CLOSE MY EYES, I WILL HAVE THAT DREAM AGAIN
THESE HANDS ARE GOING TO BEHEAD MY BELOVED SUBJECTS AT RANDOM, CUT OFF THEIR EARS, IMPALE WOMEN AND CHILDREN...
NO, I WON'T SLEEP!
OH, NO, YOU DON'T!
SLEEP DEPRIVATION WILL RUIN YOUR HEALTH.

SHH!
WHO—
MY GOOD KING,
YOU DON'T WANT TO DREAM THAT TERRIBLE DREAM ANYMORE, DO YOU?
GO TO SLEEP.
BAD DREAMS ARE MY FAVORITE FOOD.
IF THAT'S THE CASE, PLEASE BE QUIET.
...
MY NAME IS KIKI.
I'M A NEW-BORN MARE
leap

EVERY SINGLE ONE OF THEM!
KILL...
THERE!
COMES FROM SOME-WHERE
THIS DREAM
THIS WAY.
IF I FOLLOW THE TRAIL, I'LL KNOW WHAT IS CAUSING IT

clatter clatter
!
turn
WHO'S THERE?!
SWING
ALL OF YOU...
ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE KING'S BAD DREAM!
TO MAKE MATTERS WORSE,
YOU ARE ALL MARES! JUST LIKE ME!

IT'S NOT GOOD FOR YOU—
AH!
Wobble
WHY IS IT THAT YOU HAVE AN APPETITE FOR A MURDEROUS DREAM?
MARES ARE EXPECTED TO FEED ON THE BEAUTIFUL, ROMANTIC DREAMS THEY GIVE TO HUMANS
YOU ARE INNOCENT YOU DO NOT KNOW
AT COURT, HUNDREDS OF WOMEN VIE TO BE THE KING'S FAVORITE
THEY ARE COMPETITIVE AND BLINDED BY JEALOUSY THEY EVEN RESORT TO POISONING ONE ANOTHER
THEY LIVE IN FEAR, DAY AFTER DAY, AWAITING THE DAY
THEY WILL BE EXECUTED FOR SLANDER

OPIUM OFFERS TEMPORARY RELIEF.
YOU SMOKE OPIUM?!
WE ARE DISEASED MARES.
BEAUTIFUL DREAMS DO NOT SATIATE US
THE KING'S DREAM TASTES LIKE OPIUM
WE CANNOT STOP.
THEN...
I WILL!
IF I EAT HIS DREAM—
ALL OF IT—

WELCOME BACK, KIKI. GOOD WORK!
THANKS TO YOU, THE TREE'S BRANCHES ARE NO LONGER DECAYING.
FROM THEIR SUFFERING
--I'LL BE ABLE TO SAVE THE MARES AND THE KING...
SHE FELL ASLEEP
ZZZ
SIR!
FLOMP
I CAN'T EAT ANY-MORE
I'M TOO FULL
OH, DEAR

YOU'D BETTER NOT TELL KIKI, SIR!
THAT AFTER REGAINING HIS HEALTH,
THE KING WASTED NO TIME TO START A WAR.
EVEN THOUGH THE BLOODSHED IS NOT A FIGMENT OF HIS DREAM,
BUT REAL, HE DOESN'T SHED A TEAR.
WHAT'S MORE, ALL THE OPIUM-SMOKING MARES AT COURT PERISHED...
WHEN KIKI, A NATURAL, ATE THE DREAM THAT THEY HAD CREATED,
STUMBLE
SHE IS HEAVY!
HER LATEST MEAL WAS NO LIGHT DREAM.
INDEED.
IT WILL BE OUR SECRET.
The End of the Second Dream